



Press Brief

South-South Cooperation

Why is this important?

International transfers of knowledge and technology can help control and halt the loss of biodiversity, but the urgency of this challenge demands new ways to transfer these resources — and a greater role for biodiverse developing nations.

Most transfers of technology, knowledge and funds related to biodiversity have been from developed countries (also known as “the North”) to developing countries (“the South”) — with agendas, to a large extent, defined by the North.

This traditional North-South cooperation model, although essential, is not sufficient to achieve the objectives of the CBD. Now, like never before, developing nations increasingly have the experience and capacity to use biodiversity in a sustainable way.

This means that North-South cooperation can be complemented with South-South and triangular cooperation, in which technologies are transferred from South to South with combined funds and agendas set equitably by the North and the South. A platform through which countries are empowered to exchange knowledge, technology and lessons learned on biodiversity and its potential for development, will create incentives for developing countries to protect it, while contributing to poverty alleviation.

This is critical because most biodiversity is located in developing countries, in which poverty is still a major concern. This could be put to better service in eradicating poverty, contributing to national development and improving the quality of life of lower-income populations.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

www.cbd.int/cooperation/SouthSouthcooperation.shtml



What news to expect in Nagoya?

At COP10, Yemen (chair of the G77 group of 130 developing nations) will submit a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation for the consideration of the Parties.

The Plan adopted by COP10 will be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly, ultimately to provide a framework for cooperation among developing countries at regional, national and international levels, and to promote triangular cooperation, which also involves and benefits Parties from the North. Regional agencies and commissions will also be involved in this process since their role is significant in taking the plan to regional and sub-regional levels.

The plan aims to ensure that greater cooperation will benefit both the environment and development. In particular, it seeks to enhance the implementation of CBD and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and contribute to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (especially Goals 1 and 7).

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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